UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation on land west of Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

(SP 5285 8445)

Mathew Morris

ULAS Report No 2016-132

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For: CgMs Consulting Ltd

Planning application ref.: 15/01665/OUT

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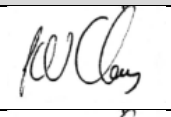
2016-132v1	 Patrick Clay	02/09/2016
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out on land west of Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5285 8445) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 22-25 August, 2016. Work was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Ltd. in order to establish the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which may be present, in order that an assessment may be made of the impact of any proposed development on the buried remains. The application comprised two fields under arable cultivation on the west to north-westerly facing slope of a shallow valley on the western side of Lutterworth.

Seventeen 50m by 2m trenches were excavated to achieve a c.1% sample of the 14.1 ha area. Trenches were positioned to allow examination of the entire site and to investigate geophysical anomalies. Overall, the evaluation has produced evidence for medieval and post-medieval agrarian farming practices, namely ridge-and-furrow of medieval and/or early post-medieval date, and ceramic and plastic field drains of early-modern/modern date. No other archaeological features or deposits were recorded. The ridge-and-furrow was recorded in the centre of the easternmost field (Field 1) on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation, which corresponds with areas of widely spaced, curving, parallel linear anomalies identified in geophysical data for the site. A small number of discrete, isolated undatable shallow features were recorded in three of trenches. These are likely to be bioturbation. Modern agricultural practices have evidently truncated much of the site, with very little subsoil present, and natural substratum was typically recorded only c.*0.35m below the ground level. Ceramic and plastic field drains were present in most trenches and a large, modern storm drain crossed the centre of the site from north to south.*

The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A62.2016.

Introduction

In August 2016 University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land west of Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5285 8445 - Figure 1). Work was undertaken for CgMs Consulting Ltd in order to establish the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present, in order that an assessment may be made of the impact of any proposed development on the buried remains.

In October 2015, Harborough District Council received a planning application for the "erection of up to 250 dwellings with associated access, pedestrian links, public open space, car parking, landscaping and drainage" (app. no. 15/01665/OUT). Planning permission was refused in May 2016, reason 2 stating that "the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposal would not detrimentally affect buried archaeological remains, and the application therefore fails to comply with Core Strategy Policy CS11 and paragraphs 128, 129 and 135 of the National Planning Policy Framework" (HDC 2016). An appeal is in progress.

The programme of archaeological work reported on here has been undertaken in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (Clark 2016). This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012) and on the advice of Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, Harborough District Council.

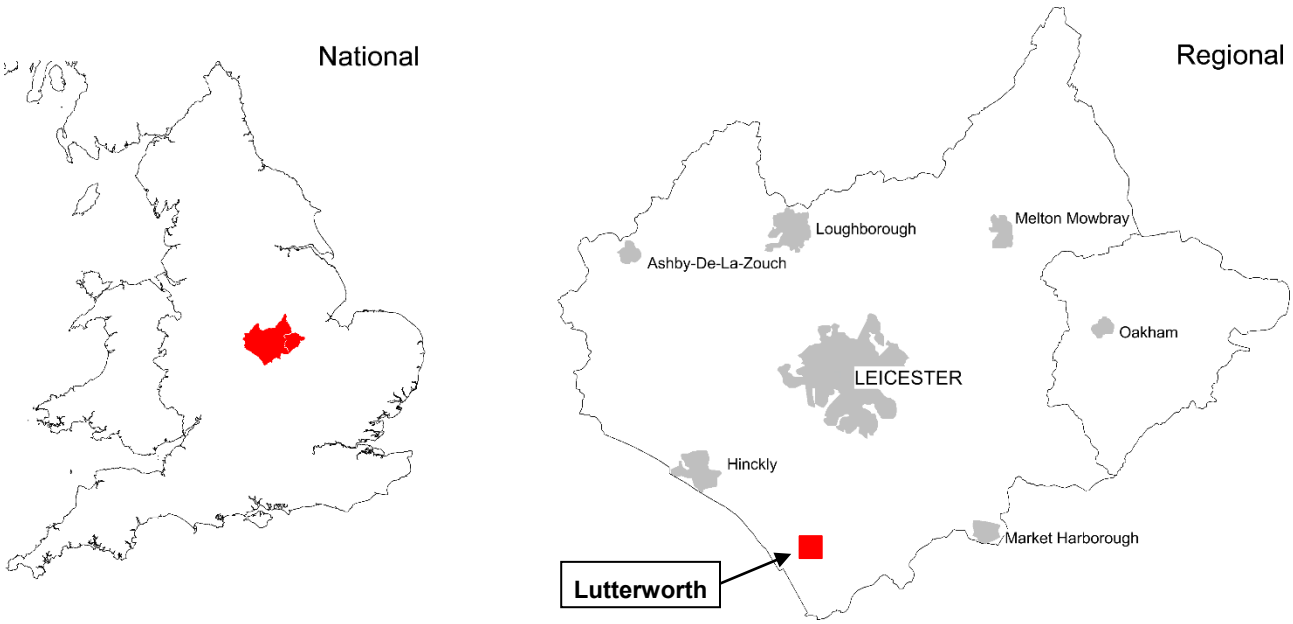
Site Location, Geology and Topography

The area of work comprises two fields under arable cultivation on the western side of Lutterworth (Figure 1), covering approximately 14.1 hectares centred on NGR SP 5285 8445. The site is bounded to the east by Coventry Road, to the south by the A4303, to the west by an unnamed stream and to the north by Lutterworth Country Park.

Lutterworth is situated in south Leicestershire approximately 20km south of Leicester and 19km west of

Market Harborough. The British Geological Survey (BGS) shows that the site's underlying geology is likely to consist of thinly interbedded bedrock deposits of mudstone and limestone of the Blue Lias Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton (formerly known as Boulder Clay) of the Oadby Member. A band of Shawell sand and gravel runs across the centre of the area from north to south, whilst alluvium and river terrace deposits of sand and gravel are present along the western edge of the site in the vicinity of the stream (BGS OpenGeoscience).

The site lies on a west to north-westerly facing slope above an unnamed tributary stream of the River Swift with the ground gently sloping down from *c.*122m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) along the eastern boundary to *c.*107m aOD along the stream to the west.



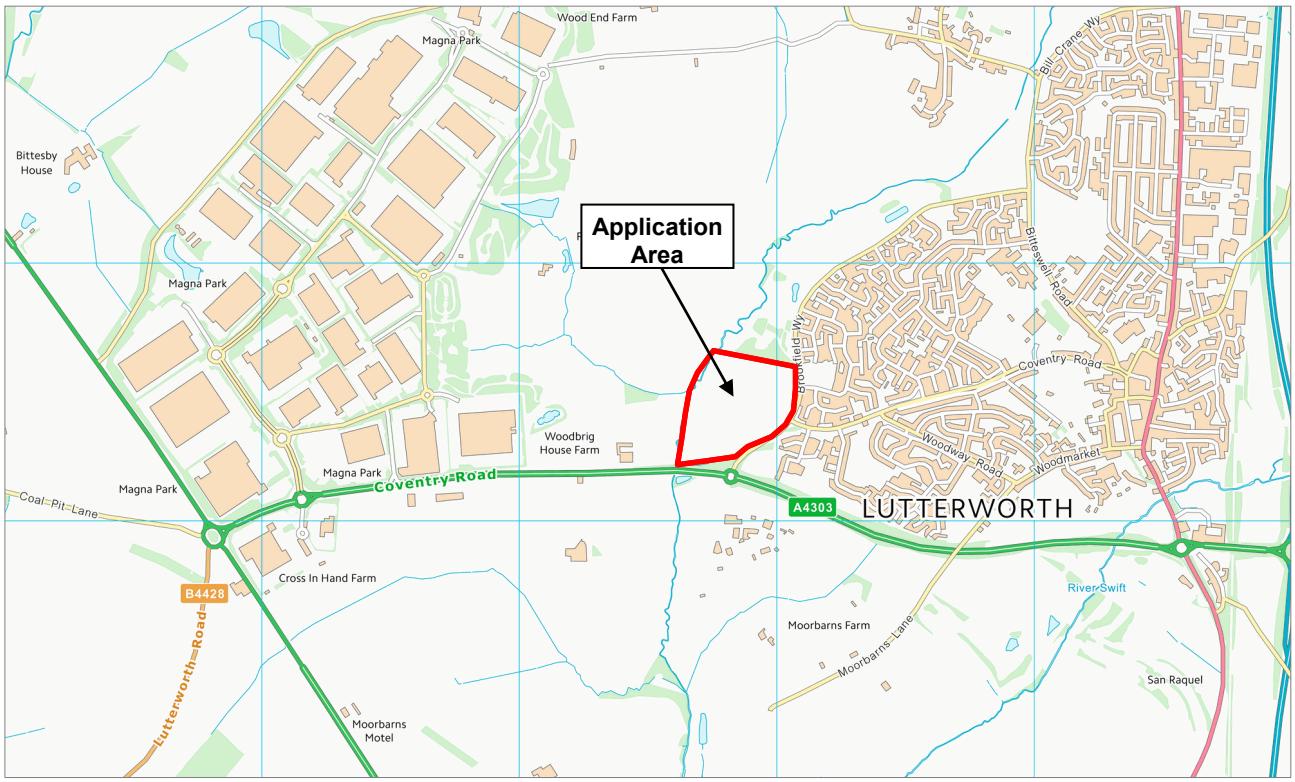


Figure 1: Location Plans with project area highlighted (contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2016).

Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological potential of the site has previously been considered in a heritage statement compiled by CgMs Ltd. (Clark 2015) and evaluated through geophysical survey (Richardson 2015). The following is a summary of these reports reproduced from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Clark 2016):

> *"Excavations at Leader's Farm, to the south-east of the site across Coventry Road, recovered a Palaeolithic Penknife Point, as part of a small collection of predominantly Neolithic/Bronze Age worked lithics. Fieldwalking undertaken to the east and north-east of the site, on the opposite side of Coventry Road, recovered a number of Prehistoric lithic artefacts and cores, as did fieldwalking undertaken immediately to the west of the site.*
>
> *The excavation at Leader's Farm identified late Iron Age activity, comprising several large polygonal enclosures and four roundhouses, in the eastern half of the site. The western half of the site contained a Roman field system, comprising rectilinear ditches, suggesting much of the site was covered with small enclosures or fields, dating to the late 2nd or 3rd century AD. The fieldwalking to the east of the site, across Coventry Road, recovered 13 sherds of Roman pottery.*
>
> *The neighbouring settlements of Bitteswell and Lutterworth are mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, indicating that they were established settlements by the end of the Saxon period. The geophysical surveys on the site identified the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation across much of the site, illustrating that it was utilised as part of the open field system of cultivation during the medieval period.*
>
> *The historic mapping of the site shows the amalgamation of a number of smaller fields, and a now-demolished agricultural building.*
>
> *The geophysical survey undertaken across the eastern part of the site identified evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. Four possible archaeological anomalies were identified, including a length of possible sinuous ditch and three possible pits, although these features may be natural in origin.*
>
> *The geophysical survey of the westernmost field identified remains of an undated field system with a number of possibly associated linear anomalies. Ridge and furrow cultivation enclosed by a field boundary was also identified."*

Archaeological Objectives

The principle aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, survival and quality for any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To inform formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.

Results from the investigation are considered in light of research agendas *The Archaeology of the East Midlands* (Cooper 2006) and *East Midlands Heritage* (Knight *et al.* 2012), especially research objectives concerning Iron Age and Roman rural settlement patterns, the origin and development of medieval villages, the agrarian landscape and food-producing economy, industrial activity and standards of living.

Methodology

During the evaluation, modern overburden and soil was to be removed in level spits under continuous archaeological supervision down to the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural substratum, depending on which was reached first. This was carried out with a 360° mechanical digger using a 1.8m wide, toothless ditching bucket.

All trenches, open areas, exposed sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds.

Features were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS urban trench recording forms whilst stratigraphic units were to be given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets.

Trench and feature plans/sections were drawn at appropriate scales and tied into the National Grid using appropriate methods. A photographic record of the excavation was prepared, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital photographs were taken throughout the excavation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

All work followed the approved written scheme of investigation (Clark 2016) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

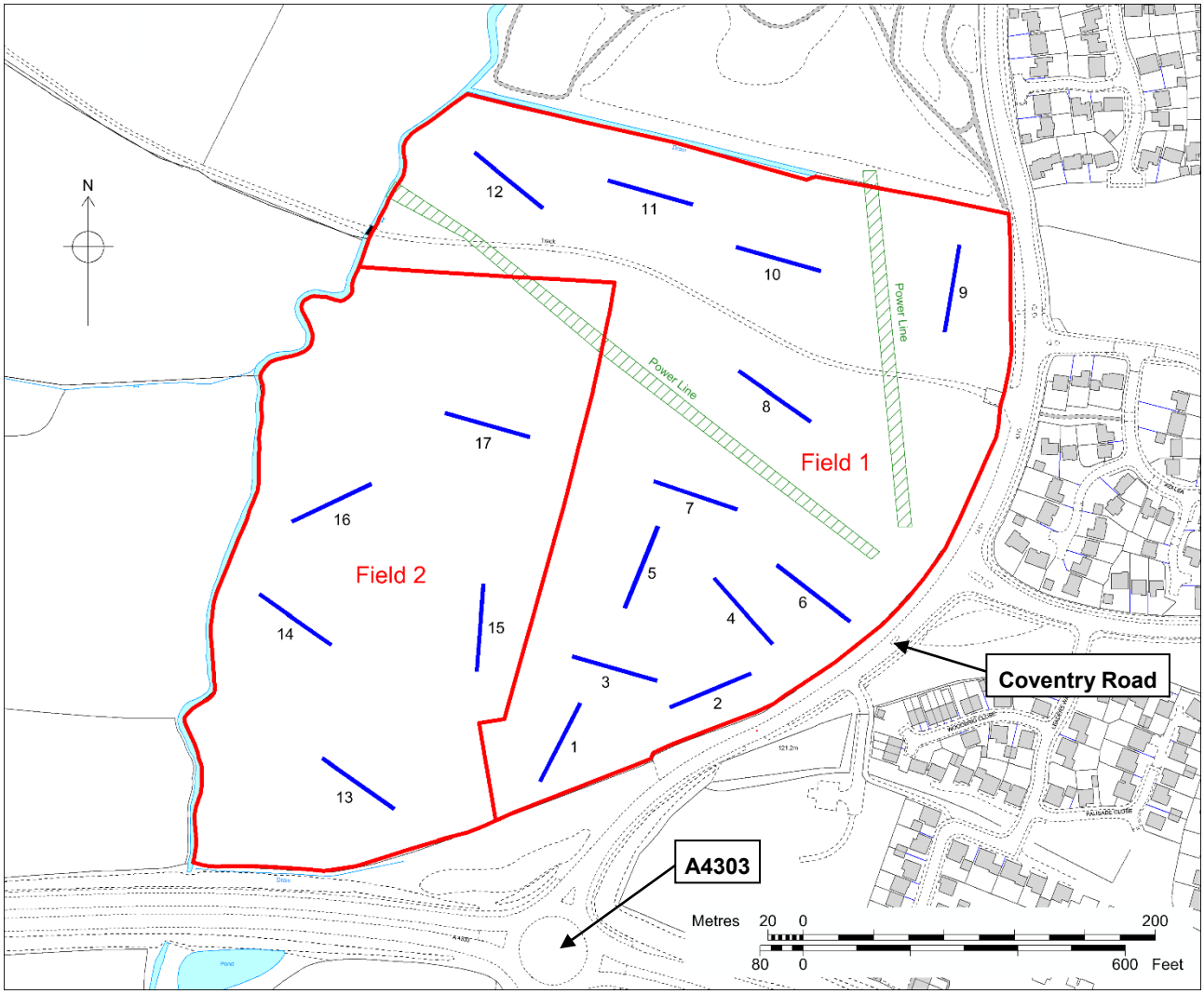


Figure 2: Plan of the area showing trench locations.

Results

The approved written scheme of investigation (Clarke 2016) called for the investigation of seventeen *c.*50m by *c.*2m trenches (1,700 sq m) to achieve a *c.*1% sample of the 14.1 ha area of work (Figure 2). Trenches were positioned to allow examination of the entire site and investigate geophysical anomalies, taking into account site constraints including public footpaths and overhead cables, as indicated by a trench layout plan prepared by CgMs Consulting (Clark 2016, figure 2).

The area comprised two fields under arable cultivation (recently harvested - Figure 3). Field 1 was L-shaped, covering 8.3 ha on the eastern and northern sides of the site. Field 2 was rectangular, covering 5.8 ha on the western side of the site.

Figure 3: Field 1, looking north-west during the excavation of Trench 4.

Field 1

Trench 1

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
50.1	1.8		90.18		0.28		0.51
Interval (m) from NE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**to SW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.29	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.27	**0.23**
Subsoil depth	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.15	0.03	0.08	**0.07**
Top of Natural substratum	0.34	0.38	0.21	0.33	0.20	0.35	**0.30**
Base of trench	0.47	0.41	0.28	0.41	0.28	0.51	**0.39**

Trench 1 was located at the southern end of Field 1, south-west of Trench 2 and south of Trench 3. Orientated north-east to south-west, it was *c.*50.1m long and *c.*1.8m wide (90.18 sq m) - Figure 5a. The ground dropped away to the south-west in this corner of the field, with the trench machined roughly perpendicular to the contours.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.23m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.07m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal the natural substratum *c.*0.3m below ground level. The substratum across the northern *c.*42m of the trench was orange-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel while across the southern *c.*8m it was an underlying orange-grey silty-sand with gravel.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 2

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
48.8	1.8		87.84		0.29		0.39
Interval (m) from ENE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to WSW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.25	0.27	0.28	**0.27**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.25	0.27	0.28	**0.27**
Base of trench	0.29	0.33	0.39	0.32	0.31	0.32	**0.33**

Trench 2 was located at the southern end of Field 1, east of Trench 3 and south of Trench 4. Orientated east-

north-east to west-south-west, it was *c.*48.8m long and *c.*1.8m wide (87.84 sq m) - Figure 5b. The ground was relatively flat along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum of orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel on average *c.*0.27m below ground level. No subsoil was present and plough scars up to 20mm deep were noted in the surface of the substratum.

Medieval ridge and furrow was observed along the length of the trench. Furrows were typically *c.*1.5-2m wide and spaced *c.*9-13m apart on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation. All were filled with greyish-brown silty-clay mixed with small quantities of charcoal and crushed ceramic building material. At the southern end of the trench, in place of a furrow, was a *c.*0.25m wide, V-shaped linear feature, *c.*0.15m deep, filled with greyish-brown silty-clay. On the same alignment as the furrows, its fill produced a single fragment of clay pipe (27mm x 8mm with a 2mm diameter bore). Considering its alignment, it is possibly that this is the truncated remains of a field ditch, drainage gully, or reworked furrow.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 3

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
49.4	1.8		88.92		0.42		0.67
Interval (m) from ESE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**49**	**to WNW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	**0.30**
Subsoil depth	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.22	0.23	**0.13**
Top of Natural substratum	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.41	0.51	0.52	**0.43**
Base of trench	0.42	0.42	0.51	0.53	0.62	0.67	**0.53**

Trench 3 was located at the southern end of Field 1, north of Trench 1 and west of Trench 2. Orientated east-south-west to west-north-west, it was *c.*49.4m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.92 sq m) - Figure 5c. The ground gently dropped down to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.3m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.13m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.43m below ground level. This subsoil thickened gradually from east to west (downslope) while plough scars up to 20mm deep were noted in the surface of the substratum where subsoil was thinnest. The substratum was orange-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 4

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
49.4	1.8		88.92		0.38		0.53
Interval (m) from SE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**49**	**to NW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.27	0.31	**0.31**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.29	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.27	0.31	**0.31**
Base of trench	0.44	0.46	0.52	0.53	0.39	0.38	**0.45**

Trench 4 was located in the centre of Field 1, north of Trench 2 and south-west of Trench 6. Orientated south-east to north-west, it was *c.*49.1m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.92 sq m) - Figure 5d. Ground was relatively flat

along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum of orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel on average *c.*0.31m below ground level. No subsoil was present and plough scars up to 20mm deep were noted in the surface of the natural.

Medieval ridge and furrow was observed along the length of the trench. Furrows were typically *c.*1.5-2m wide and spaced *c.*10m apart on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation. All were filled with dark greyish-brown silty-clay mixed with large quantities of charcoal and crushed ceramic building material.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 5

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
48.9	1.8		88.02		0.35		0.42
Interval (m) from SW end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to NE end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.28	0.31	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.25	**0.28**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.28	0.31	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.25	**0.28**
Base of trench	0.35	0.42	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.36	**0.38**

Trench 5 was located in the centre of Field 1, north of Trench 3 and west of Trench 4. Orientated south-west to north-east, it was *c.*48.9m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.02 sq m) - Figure 5e. Ground was relatively flat along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum of orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel on average *c.*0.28m below ground level. No subsoil was present.

Medieval ridge and furrow was observed along the length of the trench. Furrows were typically *c.*1.5-2m wide and spaced *c.*3.5-4m apart on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation. The southern three were filled with greyish-brown silty-clay mixed with small quantities of charcoal and crushed ceramic building material. Whilst the northern three were filled with dark greyish-brown silty-clay mixed with large quantities of charcoal and crushed ceramic building material.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 6

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
52.7	1.8		94.86		0.31		0.45
Interval (m) from SE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**50**	**to NW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.25	0.29	0.30	0.35	0.34	**0.30**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.29	0.25	0.29	0.30	0.35	0.34	**0.30**
Base of trench	0.41	0.31	0.38	0.44	0.39	0.45	**0.40**

Trench 6 was located in the centre of Field 1, north-east of Trench 4 and south-east of Trench 7. Orientated south-east to north-west, it was *c.*52.7m long and *c.*1.8m wide (94.86 sq m) - Figure 5f. Ground was relatively flat along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum of orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel on average *c.*0.3m below ground level. No subsoil was present.

Medieval ridge and furrow was observed along the length of the trench. Furrows were typically spaced *c.*4m apart on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation. All three were filled with dark greyish-brown silty-clay mixed with large quantities of charcoal and crushed ceramic building material.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 7

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
49.8	1.8		89.64		0.34		0.51
Interval (m) from WNW end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**49**	**to ESE end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.33	**0.31**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.29	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.33	**0.31**
Base of trench	0.39	0.34	0.45	0.42	0.49	0.51	**0.43**

Trench 7 was located in the centre of Field 1, north of Trench 5 and north-west of Trenches 4 and 6. Orientated west-north-west to east-south-east, it was *c.*49.8m long and *c.*1.8m wide (89.64 sq m) - Figure 6a. Ground was relatively flat along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum of orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel on average *c.*0.31m below ground level. No subsoil was present.

At the eastern end of the trench, truncated by modern filed drains was a faint linear feature, *c.*0.2m wide and *c.*0.1m deep with a V-shaped profile. Filled with greyish-brown silty-clay it was on the same east-south-east to west-north-west orientation as ridge and furrow recorded in surrounding trenches and it is likely to be a much-truncated furrow too.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 8

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
47.8	1.8		86.04		0.39		0.62
Interval (m) from NW end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**47**	**to SE end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.32	0.34	0.25	0.29	0.30	**0.30**
Subsoil depth	0.17	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.09	0.07	**0.11**
Top of Natural substratum	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.30	0.38	0.37	**0.41**
Base of trench	0.61	0.62	0.51	0.39	0.42	0.41	**0.49**

Trench 8 was located in the centre of Field 1, north of Trench 7 and south of Trench 10. Orientated north-west to south-east, it was *c.*47.8m long and *c.*1.8m wide (86.04 sq m) - Figure 6b. Ground dropped away slightly to the north-west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.3m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.11m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.41m below ground level. Natural was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel.

Medieval ridge and furrow was observed along the length of the trench. Two furrows were spaced *c.*3.5m apart on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation. Both were filled with greyish-brown silty-clay mixed with small quantities of charcoal and crushed ceramic building material.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 9

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
48.2	1.8		86.76		0.35		0.58
Interval (m) from S end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to N end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.28	0.24	0.25	0.28	0.29	0.26	**0.27**
Subsoil depth	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.18	0.10	0.21	**0.11**
Top of Natural substratum	0.34	0.28	0.30	0.46	0.39	0.47	**0.38**
Base of trench	0.42	0.35	0.39	0.55	0.51	0.58	**0.47**

Trench 9 was located at the northern end of Field 1, north-east of Trench 8 and east of Trench 10. Orientated north to south, it was *c.*48.2m long and *c.*1.8m wide (86.76 sq m) - Figure 6c. Ground was relatively flat along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.27m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.11m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.38m below ground level. Natural across the southern *c.*22m of the trench was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel; across the central *c.*15m it was orangeish-grey silty-sand with lenses of manganese staining; and across the northern *c.*11m it was greyish-orange silty-gravel.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 10

Length (m)	**Width (m)**		**Area (sq. m)**		**Min. depth (m)**		**Max. depth (m)**
49.2	1.8		88.56		0.41		0.55
Interval (m) from ESE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**49**	**to WNW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.27	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.26	**0.27**
Subsoil depth	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.05	**0.07**
Top of Natural substratum	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.31	**0.34**
Base of trench	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.55	0.45	0.43	**0.45**

Trench 10 was located at the northern end of Field 1, north of Trench 8 and west of Trench 9. Orientated east-south-east to west-north-west, it was *c.*49.2m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.56 sq m) - Figure 6d. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.27m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.07m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.34m below ground level. Natural across the eastern *c.*31m of the trench was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel and across the western *c.*18m it was orangeish-grey silty-sand.

Central in the trench, *c.*12m from its eastern end, was a small ovoid feature. It measured *c.*0.6m by *c.*0.4m and was less than *c.*0.1m deep, with a concave profile filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay. Excavation produced no finds and there was no evidence that it had been deliberately cut. In all likelihood it is a product of bioturbation.

No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 11

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
48.9	1.8		88.02		0.34		0.55
Interval (m) from ESE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to WNW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.22	0.25	0.29	0.27	0.28	0.28	**0.27**
Subsoil depth	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.05	0.11	**0.08**
Top of Natural substratum	0.26	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.33	0.39	**0.35**
Base of trench	0.34	0.40	0.49	0.43	0.39	0.55	**0.43**

Trench 11 was located at the northern end of Field 1, north-west of Trench 10 and north-east of Trench 12. Orientated east-south-east to west-north-west, it was *c.*48.9m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.02 sq m) - Figure 6e. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.27m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.08m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.35m below ground level. Natural was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel.

The modern cut for a *c.*1m wide storm drain was recorded *c.*19m from the western end of the trench. This bisected the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment and could be traced across Field 1 and Field 2 by a series of inspection hatches visible on the ground. It was also very apparent on the geophysical survey. Otherwise, no other archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Trench 12

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
48.7	1.8		87.66		0.43		0.61
Interval (m) from NW end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to SE end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.31	0.34	0.24	0.24	0.33	0.29	**0.29**
Subsoil depth	0.12	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.05	0.13	**0.10**
Top of Natural substratum	0.43	0.43	0.35	0.35	0.38	0.42	**0.39**
Base of trench	0.61	0.59	0.48	0.47	0.43	0.58	**0.53**

Trench 12 was located at the northern end of Field 1, west of Trench 11. Orientated north-west to south-east, it was *c.*48.7m long and *c.*1.8m wide (87.66 sq m) - Figure 6f. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.29m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.1m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.39m below ground level. Natural across the eastern *c.*43m of the trench was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel, whilst across the western *c.*6m was dark brownish-blue/grey alluvial clay. This coincided with the flat valley floor adjacent to the stream running along the western edge of the work area.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Figure 4: Investigating ridge-and-furrows in Trench 7, looking west.

Field 2

Trench 13

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
49.1	1.8		88.38		0.38		0.55
Interval (m) from SE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**49**	**to NW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.28	0.26	0.28	0.32	0.32	0.21	**0.28**
Subsoil depth	0.04	0.16	0.18	0.15	0.05	0.05	**0.11**
Top of Natural substratum	0.32	0.42	0.46	0.47	0.37	0.26	**0.39**
Base of trench	0.38	0.49	0.55	0.53	0.48	0.41	**0.47**

Trench 13 was located at the southern end of Field 2, south-east of Trench 14 and south-west of Trench 15. Orientated south-east to north-west, it was *c.*49.1m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.38 sq m) - Figure 7a. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.28m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.11m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.39m below ground level. Natural was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel.

Halfway along the trench, *c.*25.5m from its south-eastern end, a small ovoid feature was partially exposed in the northern section. This was at least *c.*0.4m long, *c.*0.2m wide and *c.*0.1m deep with irregular edges and an undulating base. It was filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay. Excavation produced no finds and there was no evidence that it had been deliberately cut. In all likelihood it is a product of bioturbation. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 14

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
48.6	1.8		87.48		0.31		0.67
Interval (m) from SE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to NW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.39	0.27	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.25	**0.29**
Subsoil depth	0.15	0.24	0.19	0.11	-	-	**0.12**
Top of Natural substratum	0.54	0.51	0.45	0.40	0.29	0.25	**0.41**
Base of trench	0.67	0.59	0.49	0.51	0.34	0.31	**0.49**

Trench 14 was located in the centre of Field 2, north-west of Trench 13 and west of Trench 15. Orientated south-east to north-west, it was *c.*48.6m long and *c.*1.8m wide (87.48 sq m) - Figure 7b. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.29m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.12m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.41m below ground level. Natural across the western *c.*30m of the trench was dark brownish-blue/grey alluvial clay. This overlay orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel (recorded across the eastern *c.*21m of the trench), which in turn overlay greyish-orange silty-gravel (recorded for *c.*5m in the centre of the trench). The alluvial clay contained no organic material and did not appear to have been deposited recently.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 15

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
48.3	1.8		86.94		0.34		0.49
Interval (m) from N end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**48**	**to S end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.37	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.28	0.32	**0.31**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.37	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.28	0.32	**0.31**
Base of trench	0.49	0.42	0.43	0.35	0.34	0.46	**0.42**

Trench 15 was located in the centre of Field 2, north-east of Trench 13 and east of Trench 14. Orientated north to south, it was *c.*49.1m long and *c.*1.8m wide (88.38 sq m) - Figure 7c. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum of orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel on average *c.*0.31m below ground level. No subsoil was present.

Approximately 15m from the southern end of the trench, a small ovoid feature was partially exposed in the western section. It was *c.*0.4m in diameter and less than *c.*0.1m deep with irregular edges and an undulating base. It was filled with dark brownish-grey silty-clay. Excavation produced no finds and there was no evidence that it had been deliberately cut. In all likelihood it is a product of bioturbation.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 16

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
47.9	1.8		86.22		0.35		0.65
Interval (m) from NE end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**47**	**to SW end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.34	0.33	0.25	0.30	0.26	0.22	**0.28**
Subsoil depth	0.13	0.12	0.07	0.05	-	-	**0.06**
Top of Natural substratum	0.47	0.35	0.32	0.35	0.26	0.22	**0.34**
Base of trench	0.65	0.59	0.43	0.43	0.38	0.35	**0.47**

Trench 16 was located in the centre of Field 2, north of Trench 14 and north-west of Trench 15. Orientated north-east to south-west, it was *c.*47.9m long and *c.*1.8m wide (86.22 sq m) - Figure 7d. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed on average *c.*0.28m of friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil, and *c.*0.06m of paler greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil to reveal natural substratum *c.*0.34m below ground level. Natural was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel across the eastern (up-slope) half of the trench, gradually changing to dark brownish-blue/grey alluvial clay across the western half of the trench (at the bottom of the valley). Following discussion with the LCC Senior Planning Archaeologist on site this change in the natural substratum was examined by an additional bucket scrape. This revealed another modern land drain and compact natural sand. This confirmed that the western half of the trench showed a geological change and not evidence of a palaeochannel.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

Trench 17

Length (m)	Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)
49.6	1.8		89.28		0.34		0.51
Interval (m) from WNW end	**0**	**10**	**20**	**30**	**40**	**49**	**to ENE end (average below)**
Topsoil depth	0.31	0.28	0.31	0.32	0.33	0.34	**0.32**
Subsoil depth	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Top of Natural substratum	0.31	0.28	0.31	0.32	0.33	0.34	**0.32**
Base of trench	0.43	0.34	0.36	0.51	0.45	0.48	**0.43**

Trench 17 was located at the northern end of Field 2, north of Trench 15 and north-east of Trench 16. Orientated west-north-west to east-south-east, it was *c.*49.6m long and *c.*1.8m wide (89.28 sq m) - Figure 7e. Ground dropped away gently to the west along the length of the trench.

The mechanical excavator removed friable dark brownish-grey clayey-silt topsoil to reveal natural substratum on average *c.*0.32m below ground level. No subsoil was present. Natural along much of the trench was orangeish-grey silty-clay with patches of gravel changing to orangeish-grey silty-sand at the western end.

The modern cut for a *c.*1m wide storm drain was recorded *c.*14m from the western end of the trench. This bisected the trench on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and could be traced across Field 2 and into Field 1 by a series of inspection hatches visible on the ground. It was also very apparent on the geophysical survey. Otherwise, no other archaeological features or deposits were observed.

a. Trench 1, looking south-west.

b. Trench 2, looking west-south-west

c. Trench 3, looking west-north-west.

d. Trench 4, looking south-east.

e. Trench 5, looking north-east.

f. Trench 6, looking south-east.

Figure 5: Trenches 1-6, excavated in Field 1.

a. Trench 7, looking west-north-west.

b. Trench 8, looking south-east.

c. Trench 9, looking north.

d. Trench 10, looking west-north-west.

e. Trench 11, looking west-north-west.

f. Trench 12, looking north-west.

Figure 6: Trenches 7-12, excavated in Field 1.

a. Trench 13, looking north-west.

b. Trench 14, looking south-east.

c. Trench 15, looking south.

d. Trench 16, looking north-east.

e. Trench 17, looking east-south-east.

Figure 7: Trenches 13-17, excavated in Field 2.

Discussion

Overall, the results of the archaeological investigation were negative aside from ridge-and-furrow surviving in some areas on the eastern side of the site (Figure 8). In Field 1, an average of *c.*0.28m of topsoil and c.0.06m of subsoil was recorded overlying natural substratum of diamicton *c.*0.34m below ground level. In Field 2, an average of *c.*0.3m of topsoil and *c.*0.06m of subsoil was recorded overlying natural substratum of diamicton and alluvial clay *c.*0.36m below ground level. Soil deposits did not differ at the top of the ridge or on the valley side and there was no evidence of colluvial build-up on the valley floor.

No subsoil was recorded in seven trenches in the centre of Field 1 and on the eastern side of Field 2 (Trs. 2, 4-7, 15 and 17) and the shallow soil here meant that modern ploughing had damaged the surface of the natural, leaving visible plough-scars behind. It is evident from this that there is a high degree of horizontal truncation caused by modern agricultural practices in the field. Ceramic and plastic field drains were also noted in most trenches and a large, modern storm drain crossed the centre of the site from north to south.

Figure 8: Plan of the investigation results laid over the results of the 2015 geophysical survey (Richardson 2015).

Alluvial clay was recorded in three trenches on the valley floor on the western side of the area (Trs. 12, 14 and 16). The British Geological Survey records alluvial deposits in this area, relating to the unnamed stream bordering the western edge of the site. In Trenches 14 and 16 (Field 2) the geological and topographical change (from valley side to valley floor) broadly corresponds with a positive linear anomaly recorded in the geophysical survey of the site (Richardson 2015). The alluvial clay post-dated the diamicton in the trenches but contained no organic material and did not appear to be recently deposited.

The remains of medieval ridge-and-furrow were recorded in six trenches in the centre of Field 1 (Trs. 2 and 4-8). This was all on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation and corresponds with areas of widely spaced, curving, parallel linear anomalies identified during geophysical survey of the site (Richardson 2015). Three furrows with noticeably darker fills which were richer in charcoal than adjacent furrows (recorded in Trs. 4-6) correspond with stronger positive anomalies on the geophysical data. These presumably represent localised variations in farming practice within the field during the medieval and/or early post-medieval period, perhaps with more domestic waste being deposited into these areas as manuring scatters. Crushed ceramic building material was common within the furrow fills. This appears to be predominately tile. Fragments were in an orangeish-red fabric *c.*14mm thick but were typically no larger than 70mm square leaving it unclear whether they were roof or floor tiles.

Three discrete, isolated, undated shallow features were recorded in three trenches (Tr. 10, 13 and 15). With no other evidence for surrounding archaeological activity, these are likely to be a result of bioturbation.

Previously, fieldwalking in the fields, carried out in the 1980s by the Lutterworth Fieldwork Group, has recorded little of interest (Clark 2015), and a visual inspection of the field surface and spoil heaps during the present work did not identify any material of pre-early modern origin. This coupled with the absence of archaeology in the trenches does suggest that little or no archaeological activity has taken place in the study area rather than it being removed through horizontal truncation caused by modern agricultural practices.

This is perhaps unexpected, considering the extensive evidence of late Iron Age and Roman activity uncovered at Leaders Farm east of Coventry Road, immediately south-east of the site (Morris 2014). The western half of that site was crossed by a system of rectilinear ditches suggesting that the area was covered with small enclosures or fields dating to the late 2nd or 3rd century. These appeared to be continuing north and west towards the present area of work, with pottery concentrations in the ditch fills increasing towards Coventry Road. However, the Leaders Farm site is situated on the south-facing slope of a different valley system, with the present site being over the crest of the hill and on the west to north-westerly facing slope of the next valley; perhaps on land less favourable to the activity recorded at Leaders Farm.

Conclusion

The evaluation has produced evidence for medieval and post-medieval agrarian farming practices, namely ridge-and-furrow of medieval and/or early post-medieval date, and ceramic and plastic field drains of early-modern/modern date. No other archaeological features or deposits were recorded and no artefactual evidence was recovered for archaeological activity in the vicinity. On the balance of evidence recorded during the investigation, it would appear that the study area has been under cultivation since at least the medieval period and perhaps longer.

Archive

The site archive consists of trench record sheets and digital photographs. The archive will be held by Leicestershire Museum Service under the accession number X.A62.2016.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York (see Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of OASIS information

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No**	universi1-261539		
	Project Name	Land west of Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	22/08/2016 – 25/08/2016		
	Previous/Future Work	Geophysical survey / not known		
	Project Type	Evaluation by trial trenching		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Arable field		
	Monument Type/Period	Ridge and furrow / medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	None / none		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Part of appeal		
	Planning Ref.	15/01665/OUT		
PROJECT LOCATION	**Site Address/Postcode**	Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire		
	Study Area	14.1 hectares		
	Site Coordinates	SP 5285 8445 (centre)		
	Height OD	*c.*107-122m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	**Organisation**	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Unknown		
	Project Design Originator	CgMs		
	Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Mathew Morris		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Consultancy		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**
	Recipient	-	Leics Mus. Service	Leics Mus. Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	-	X.A62.2016	X.A62.2016
	Contents	-	Photos Survey files Report	Trench records Report
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	**Type**	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land west of Coventry Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (SP 5285 8445)		
	Author	Morris, M.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2016-132		
	Date	2016		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

A summary of the work will also been submitted for publication in an appropriate local archaeological journal in due course.

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The fieldwork was carried out by Mathew Morris and James Earley. James Harvey laid out the trench locations, and this report was written by Mathew Morris. The project was managed for ULAS by Dr Patrick Clay.

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